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# FOR LEADERS

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

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No.

# For Leaders

OF

# Christian Stewardship

Classes

EPWORTH LEAGUE
57 Washington Street
CHICAGO

# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

## TO LEADERS

The purpose of this study is but in a small degree academic. Your position, though that of instructor, is chiefly that of advocate. God permits no neutrality in our attitude toward truth. All His truth invites investigation, but when recognized it demands enthronement. As leader of this class it is your privilege and duty to lead as many as possible to the intellectual recognition of the principles regulating their financial responsibility to God, not merely for intellectual acquisition, but that you may, in the spirit of a prophet, induce them to apply these principles in the regulation of their lives.

The results of Christian Stewardship do not include simply a better financial support of Christian enterprises, but also the very spiritual life of our membership. The fundamental sin of the world is selfishness, and it manifests itself in a thousand forms. It is withholding the support Christ needs for His work, and making people unwilling to even examine the principles of their financial responsibility for fear of the convictions that might follow. It drives us to a multitude of humiliating expedients, irritates us over every call for money, and hardens our hearts, making us blind and callous to the needs of Christ while holding on to that which is not our own. Cultivated by the love of money, it permeates the whole character, manifesting itself under many unlovely forms, closing the heart to innumerable Christian graces and often eventuating in

eternal spiritual death. Vast as are the financial resources Christian Stewardship would bring the church, they are greatly outmeasured by the spiritual forces it would release. Generally accepted by the church, a far higher type of spiritual life, equipped with the material resources that rightfully belong to God, would inaugurate an era of Christian triumph obscuring the greatest victories of the past.

This course of study is a serious contribution toward winning the church to this ideal. Being the first course, so far as known, ever offered on this subject, it may be improved with experience and the production of specially adapted literature. But the carefully selected literature herewith supplied offers ample material with which the members of classes may be made to see and accept their responsibilities; they may be fired with apostolic enthusiasm to win over their entire chapters and churches, and they may be equipped with a knowledge of the subject, making them irresistible in argument. An enthusiastic coterie of Christian Stewards, thoroughly informed, consistent, tactful and zealous, associated together for systematic work, can leaven and, in time, transform any church. Through the interest awakened by this class, other classes should be organized, led by members of this. The members of this class should, with those who can be associated with them, form a League of Christian Stewards. By personal persuasion, through subsequent study classes and special League devotional services and special church prayer meetings, their numbers should increase until the church as a whole joins the constantly growing number of phenomenally successful churches that are administered upon this plan.

The leader of this class is charged with a great opportunity and responsibility to bring these results to pass.

He should have a first-class committee to assist him. An ample supply of Christian Stewardship pledge cards should be secured and effectively and repeatedly presented. Members of the class should take cards to use in personal solicitation. A list of those who sign should be kept, and all brought into the League when it is organized, and all should be employed to secure others.

In pursuing this study so vital to the future of our Lord's Kingdom, every session should be opened with a season of short, definite, earnest prayers in which there is general participation. The lesson should also close with prayer that God may bless His truth and make each willing to receive, consistent to practice and diligent to spread it.

A part of each session should also be given to a discussion as to what is being accomplished, and how, during the current weeks, the members of the class may singly and collectively do most to promote these principles in the League and church.

The sessions of the class should begin and close promptly. Wandering discussions must be repressed. Those to whom subjects are assigned in advance, should make thorough preparation, and it is far better if they bring their discussions written out. None must be permitted to suppose that the assignment of themes lessens the duty of each to thoroughly master the whole lesson.

The time allowed for discussion must be strictly and impartially limited, and the attention of the class held closely to the topic, and the movement must be briskly forward through each study, or it will not be possible to cover the ground or to get the most out of the studies.

## FIRST LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, Neh XIII: 10-4.

Prayer.

Study 1: "The Meagerness of Christian Giving."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"The Financial Needs of Our Benevolences."

"The Financial Needs of Our Educational Institutions."

"The Financial Needs of Our Work in Cities and on the Frontiers."

"The Financial Needs of Our Superannuates."

"The Financial Needs of Our Local Churches."

"The Financial Needs of Our Hospitals, etc."

"The Universal and Paralyzing Need of the Cause for Which Christ Poured Out His Precious Life."

"Contrast Between the Gifts of Our Love to Christ and the Expenditure of the World Upon Its Pleasures and Vices.

Discuss:

"The Opportunity of the Hour."

"Straight Lives in Church Finance."

Assignments for the Second Lesson.

Prayer.

## SECOND LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, Mal. I: 6-14.

Prayer.

Study 2: "The Cause of the Present State."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"The Love of Money."

"Lack of Proper Instruction."

"Wrong Methods of Raising Money."

"The Folly and Waste of Our Present System."

Discuss:

"Motives Instead of Enticements."

"The Deacon's Tenth."

"Thanksgiving Ann."

The Introduction to "The Tithe."

Assignments for the Third Lesson.

Prayer.

## THIRD LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, 1 Chron. XXIX: 10-6.

Prayer.

Study 3: "The Reasons for Giving."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"The Need in Foreign Lands."

"The Need in Our Home Land."

"Our Opportunities."

"The Obligations of Gratitude."

"Obligations Arising from the Nature of Things."

"Obligations Belonging to the Management of a Trust."

"Obligations Imposed by the Command of God."
(See "Mary Christopher's Victory," pp. 3, 7-11.)

Discuss:

"The Stewardship of Money."

"The Law of the Tithe."

Assignments for the Fourth Lesson.

Prayer.

## FOURTH LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, Mal. III: 7-12.

Study 4: "The Reward for Giving."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"Rewards that Follow the Performance of Duty."

"Spiritual Blessings through Liberality and Sacrifice."

"The Material Blessings that God Bestows."

"The Saving and Better Distribution of the World's Wealth through the Disappearance of Sin."

"The Improvement an Adequate Support of the Gospel Would Bring to This World as a Dwelling Place."

Discuss:

"God's Tenth."

Assignments for the Fifth Lesson.

Prayer.

Hymn.

## FIFTH LESSON

Scripture, Lev. XXVII: 30-34.

Prayer.

Study 5: "The Tithe Is the Lord's."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"The Rational and Systematic Support of the Gospel."

"The Basis of Tithing in the Moral Law."

"The Mosaic Law on Tithing."

"The New Testament Recognition of Tithing."

"The Practice and Belief of the Early Church."
(See "Mary Christopher's Victory," pp. 15-56, and "The Tithe," pp. 1-72.)

Discuss:

"Scriptural Habits of Giving."

"What We Owe and Why We Owe It."

Assignments for the Sixth Lesson.

Prayer.

## SIXTH LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, Haggai I: 1-11.

Prayer.

Study 6: "Questions and Objections."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"How to Reckon the Tenth."

"Beginning."

"Affording It"

"Keeping the Account."
(See "Mary Christopher's Victory," pp. 59-106.)

Discuss:

"It Tendeth to Poverty."

"What We Owe and How to Pay It."

At the close of this lesson hold a consecration service, having each one decide upon their knees what their duty is and what they will do about it. Immediately after the consecration service present the Christian Stewardship enrollment cards for signatures. Have the Secretary keep the list of those who enroll.

Assignments for the Seventh Lesson.

Prayer.

## SEVENTH LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, Ps. 37.

Prayer.

Study 7: "Testimony and Example."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"Review of 'Mary Christopher's Victory,'" pp. 109-161.

"Review of 'The Tithe,'" pp. 72-82.

"The Experience of Wesley Chapel."
(See the three leaflets, "The Way It Works," "What a Local Church Has Done," and "Further Details."

"What Tithing Would Do for the Entire Church."

"What Tithing Would Do for Our Local Church."

Let there be a short testimony service of those who have practiced tithing.

Assignments for the Eighth Lesson.

Prayer.

## EIGHTH LESSON

Hymn.

Scripture, 2 Cor. VIII: 1-10.

Prayer.

Study 8: "Appeal to Young People."

Topics to be assigned in advance:

"The Possibilities of the Epworth League Through Christian Stewardship."

"What This Class Should Do and How."

Discuss:

"Money."

"Organization Among Christian Stewards."

At the close of this lesson steps should be taken toward the organization of a League of Christian Stewards.